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PRESS RELEASE

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JOURNEY TO ABSA CAPE EPIC A Race of a **LIFETIME**



Photo by Christine Perigen



JOURNEY TO ABSA CAPE EPIC A Race of a Lifetime

In extreme conditions and over hundreds of miles, Josh Fonner and Jackie Baker made it across the finish line of the South African Absa Cape Epic 2012. The Absa Cape Epic is longest and most difficult mountain bike team stage race in the world. Finishing 781 kilometers over 8 days in torrential rain, 40mph headwinds, and extreme heat, these two were tested in their resilience, dedication, and teamwork.

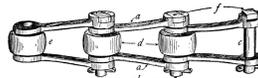
From the prologue at Meerendel Wine Estate to the finale in Oak Valley, Josh and Jackie skirted dehydration, broken bones, and bike mechanicals. According to mediclinic statistics, racers made over 2,100 visits for medical attention (that's approximately 300 visits per day). 600 teams of two participated and this duo was only one team of 16 from the United States. In the mixed men/women class, over half the teams did not complete the race, as conditions became more challenging as the days wore on.

Crossing the finish line was a huge accomplishment and there were enormous grins despite being tired. Being able to finish each day and begin the next was something that each racer hoped for and looked forward to. Making it all the way to the end and finishing over 53,000 feet of climbing left these two with a huge sense of relief, pride, and satisfaction. All that training, effort, and teamwork brought them through the pain and across the finish line side by side.

Josh is a SUNY Cortland Graduate Student finishing his masters in Outdoor Education. He currently resides in Lake Placid, NY with his girlfriend Christine. He works as the Regional Manager – East for Giant Bicycles. Josh loves bikes of all shapes and sizes and looks for new adventure around each corner.

Jackie is the Marketing Manager for Liv/giant and is based out of Newbury Park, CA. A former downhill and cross-country mountain bike racer, she's also a fan of skiing. Jackie can be found outside enjoying these pursuits most of the time.

Sponsors: **Stan's NoTubes, Giant Bicycles, WTB Tires, Honey Stinger, POC, Sigma**



For more on the story of Josh and Jackie's journey and to interview, contact Christine at Roam Life: tele.914.584.8760 / email. christine@roamlife.com